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The Problem: Legislative Hearing on DNR Secretary Appointment Bill

From 1928 until 1995, the citizen Wisconsin Conservation Commission and then the Natural Resources Board, besides their conservation policy-making responsibility, had authority to appoint the DNR Secretary. In 1995, the Wisconsin Legislature, without holding public hearings made the DNR Secretary an appointee of the Governor.

Wisconsin sportsmen and women strongly believe that it is important to minimize political involvement in the conservation decisions and policies of the DNR and have repeatedly, by margins of ninety-percent to ten-percent, supported bills in the Wisconsin legislature to restore Natural Resources Board authority to appoint the DNR Secretary.

In the 2003-2005 legislative session such a bill was introduced and despite the specific request of forty-six major hunting, fishing and trapping groups including the Conservation Congress, neither the Assembly Natural Resources Committee nor the Senate Environment Committee held a public hearing on the bill.

Recently Assembly Bill 204 has been introduced in the 2005-2007 session of the Legislature. It is critically important that this bill have public hearings and be enacted into law.

BE IT RESOLVED, the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Langlade County on April 10th, 2005, indicates its strong support of Assembly 204 and asks the Chairs of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Environment and Transportation Committee hold public hearings on Assembly Bill 204 early in the 2005-2007 legislative session.

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For Office Use Only:

County _____ Passed Failed

County Resolution Number: _____

County Vote: (by show of hands or written ballot where appropriate) YES 30 NO 6